

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-8 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 6 and 15 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 7 and 8 have been left unchanged, as these claims now depend from allowable claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that claims 6-8 and 15 are in allowable condition. Furthermore, Applicants make clear that the amendments to claims 6 and 15 were not made for the purposes of patentability or to avoid the prior art. Rather, such amendments were made for the sole purpose of placing allowable subject matter in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, by making such amendments, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any scope of equivalents afforded these claims.

Otherwise, Applicants respectfully traverse all objections and claim rejections for the reasons that follow:

I. OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Drawings were objected to for failing to include appropriate legends.

First, the Examiner contends that it is not clear where V_{IN} of Figures 2A and 2B is from. Applicants direct the Examiner to Figure 2B, which illustrates V_{IN} as an input voltage to the primary winding circuit. V_{IN} is neither an input nor an output to the circuit illustrated in Figure 2A. As described in paragraph [0023] of the Specification, V_{IN} is, in the illustrated embodiment, an input voltage connected to the opposite end of the primary winding 60 across capacitor 63 having a capacitance C2 and a resistor divider 70, 71. It is further described in paragraph 40. The duty cycle of the PWM modulator is proportional to V_{IN} . To eliminate any ambiguity, Figure 2B has been amended herein to make clear that V_{IN} is an input voltage.

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

Figs. 1, 2A and 2B have been amended. The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 2C.

The Examiner also contends that it is unclear what V_i is in Figure 2A. V_i is the input to the output circuit 7.

The Examiner also contends that it is unclear which node is the "output node" in Figure 2A. Figure 2A has been amended herein to make clear that V_o is the output node.

The Examiner also suggests labeling boxes 7 and 17 in Figures 2A and 1, respectively. Applicants have amended the Figures herein to make clear that reference numerals "7" and "17" both refer to respective output circuits.

Enclosed herewith are red-lined version of Figures 1, 2A and 2B showing the amendments described above as well as replacement drawings sheets. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification. Entry of the drawing amendments is therefore respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, AND 12-13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,619,403 to Ishikawa et al. (hereinafter "Ishikawa"). Respectfully, Applicants traverse.

The structures of independent claims 1 and 12 allow for the removal of a conventional smoothing inductor from the output stage of a switching power supply.¹ Removal of the inductor component is beneficial because such a component may be large and inefficient. To permit the smoothing inductor to be removed, claims 1 and 12 each recite, inter alia, a "switching device electrically connected on one side of the switching device to [a] rectifier circuit *and on another side of the switching device to one side of a . . . capacitor.*"

Figure 18 of Ishikawa, which was cited by the Examiner, discloses an output circuit including a switching device Tr2 electrically coupled to a rectifying diode D1 on one side and to a choke inductor L1 on the other side. Thus, the embodiment illustrated in Figure 18 of

¹ It should be noted that claims 1 and 12 permit for the removal of the smoothing inductor, but do not require the removal of the smoothing inductor. Thus, an alleged device may include the smoothing inductor and still infringe claims 1 and 12.

Ishikawa simply does not disclose a "switching device electrically connected . . . *on another side . . . to one side of a . . . capacitor*," as recited by claims 1 and 12.

Furthermore, regarding claims 2 and 13, the Examiner asserts that the output circuit of Figure 18 is not described as including an inductor. However, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 18 of Ishikawa, a conventional output smoothing inductor L1 is provided directly before the output terminal. Thus, the output circuit of Figure 18 does not meet the express limitations of claims 2 and 13, which expressly recite the absence of such a smoothing inductor.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 are allowable over Ishikawa. Furthermore, since claims 4, 5, and 10 ultimately depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over Ishikawa for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 3, 14, AND 16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ishikawa. Respectfully, Applicants traverse.

As described above, Ishikawa fails to disclose each and every feature of claims 1 and 12, from which claims 3, 14, and 16 ultimately depend. Specifically, Ishikawa fails to disclose a "switching device electrically connected on one side of the switching device to [a] rectifier circuit *and on another side of the switching device to one side of a . . . capacitor*," nor does this reference teach or suggest the removal of a conventional smoothing inductor from the output stage of a switching power supply.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 14, and 16 are allowable over Ishikawa. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are currently in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on March 22, 2005.

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Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

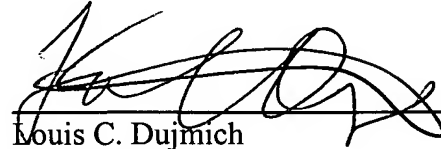
Signature

March 22, 2005

Date of Signature

LCD:BND/lf

Respectfully submitted,



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FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

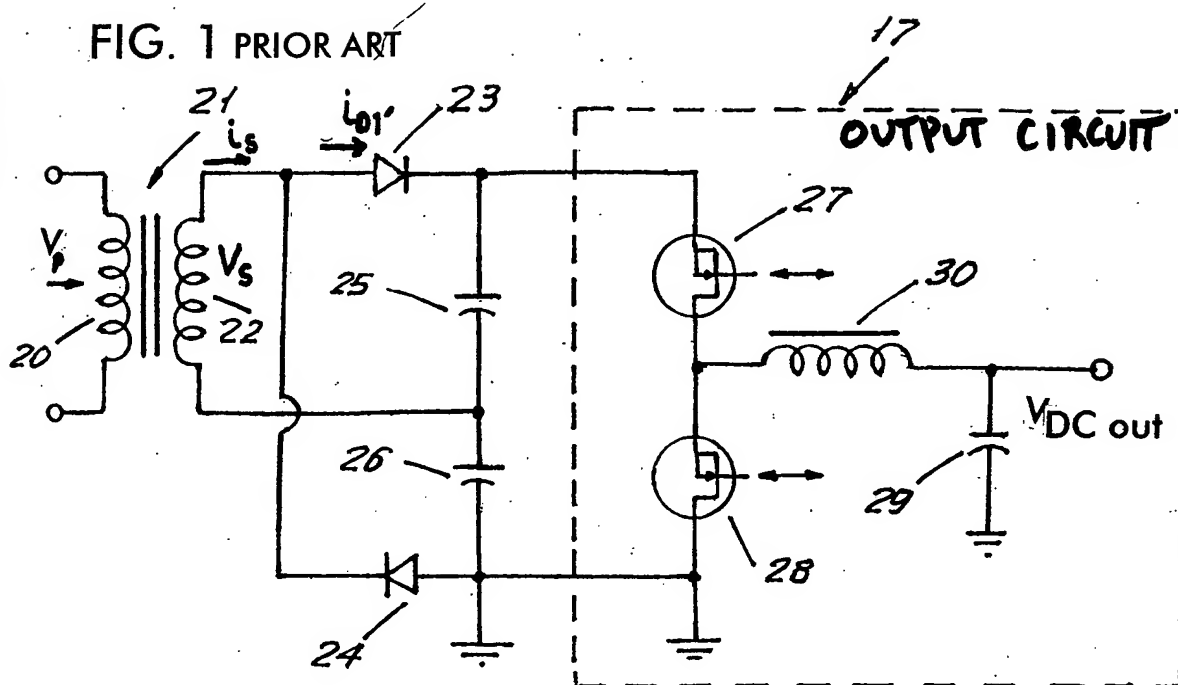


FIG. 2A

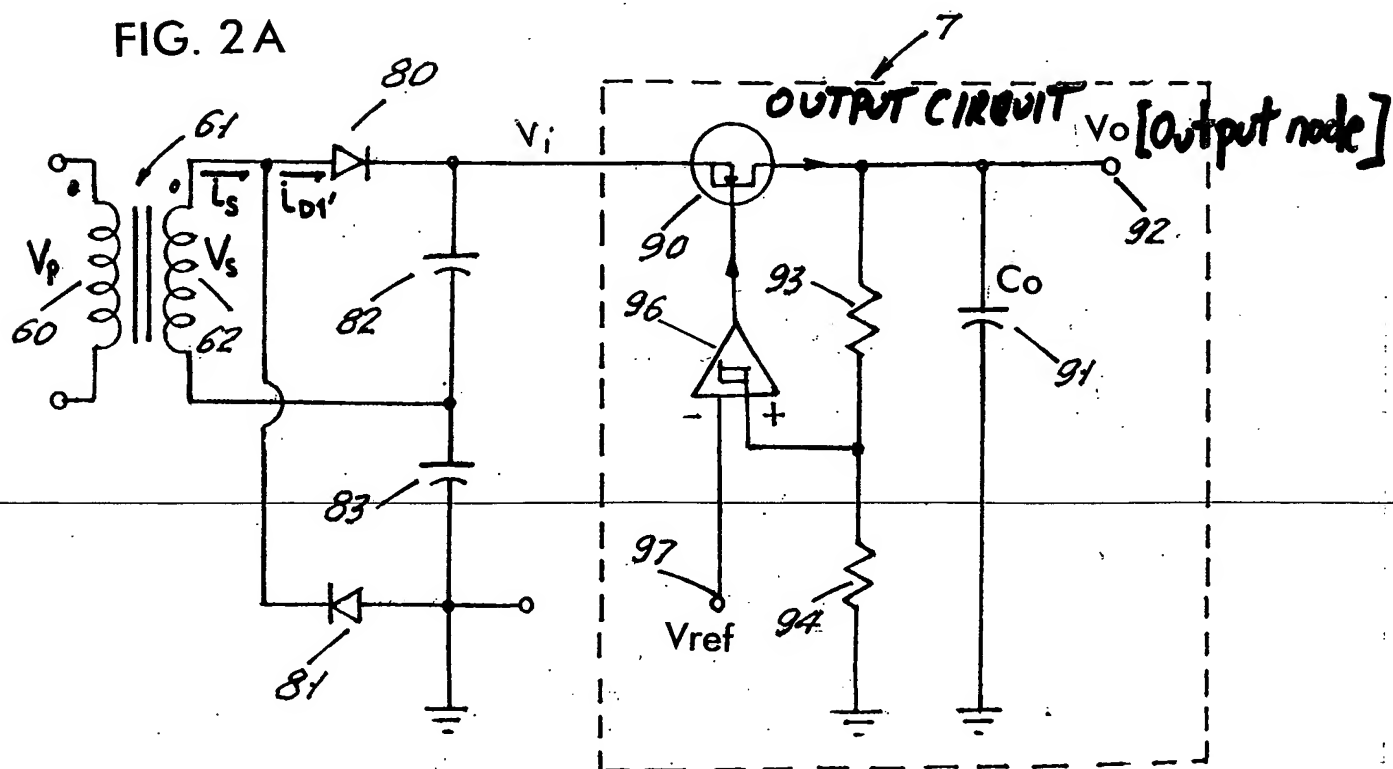


FIG. 2B

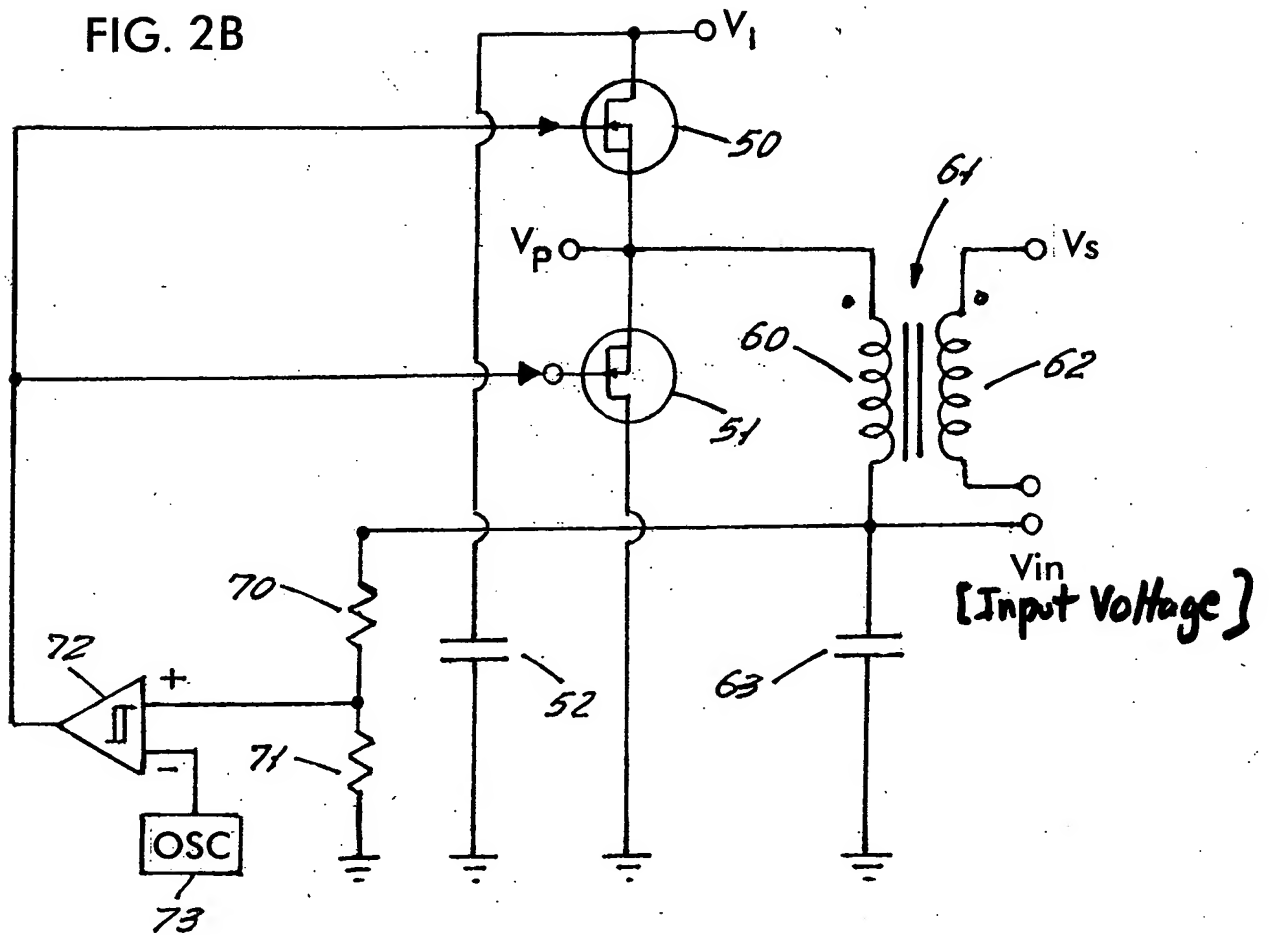


FIG. 2C

